usually applied to the system that monitors ship traffic to ensure safe navigation of ships at Port channels. Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) is a radar surveillance system broadly intended for providing effective guidance to pilotage of incoming and outgoing vessels. The radar surveillance system has a communication network with centers of Port activities controlling traffic movement. The system is designed to identify a medium-sized vessel, to compute the positional fixings along the shipping channel, to track all targets, mobile and stationary, which are automatically projected in the screen, to compute mobile target speed, course and absolute movement along the shipping channel and to forecast expected time of arrival and update all information every second with access to and from the different control points.

VTMS facilities are presently available at Kolkata, Mumbai, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Mormugao and New Mangalore Ports. The installation of VTMS at Kandla Port has been taken up in the Gulf of Kutch, jointly by this Port, Gujarat Maritime Board and the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships. Paradip Port has decided to take up the installation of VTMS during the 10th Plan period considering the level of traffic in the Port and cost involved. The facility of VTMS has not been felt necessary at Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Cochin, Tuticorin and Ennore Ports.

Disinvestment of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.

*97. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sell off Hindustan Antibiotics Limited;

(b) the value of assets of the company; and

(c) the details of the offer of the highest bidder?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) is a company under reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. In March 2002, Government submitted to BIFR that it is agreeable for a change in management of the company and would be

willing to consider a financial restructuring package without infusion of additional funds alongwith and as part of disinvestments to a strategic partner. Based on the directions of BIFR, the Operating Agency issued an advertisement for exploring possibility for change of management in HAL.

(b) As per balance sheet of the company for the year 2000-01, the net block of the company is Rs. 81.71 crores.

(c) Proposals received by the Operating Agency of BIFR, in response to the advertisement, are under the consideration of BIFR. As such it is premature to provide details of the proposals received.

HIV test before marriage

*98. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the increasing number of AIDS cases in the country, Government are planning to bring forward a legislation making it mandatory for would be bridegrooms and brides to undergo HIV testing, as is being done in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any ground work has been done in this regard; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society has conveyed that there is no proposal for making HIV testing mandatory before marriage. They have further said that such requests have been received by them, and the matter is open for debate and consensus.

(c) Does not arise.